

## Physician population stabilizes

The physician-to-population ratio remained relatively stable in 2002, at 189 per 100 000 population, according to the latest physician supply data from the Canadian Institute for Health

Information. In 2001, the ratio was 188 per 100 000. This is still well below the 1993 peak of 191 per 100 000.

The number of active physicians moving to the US and

other countries fell in 2002, as did the number returning to Canada. This resulted in a net loss of 209 active physicians, a 24% decrease over the 2001 net loss of 275 physicians. A large proportion (60%) of emigrating physicians graduated 15 years ago or less; the same is true for those returning (59%). This suggests that most returning physicians have many years left to practise.

In 2002, 869 physicians (excluding residents) moved between provinces and/or territories. The number of family physicians moving (435) was virtually identical to the number of specialists (434). Alberta and BC attracted the most physicians with net gains of 113 and 58 respectively. Jurisdictions with the greatest net losses were Manitoba (55), Saskatchewan (48) and Newfoundland (46). — *Lynda Buske*, Associate Director of Research, CMA

